



B News

Monthly News & Updates

February 2021

Hepatitis B Foundation mourns the loss of Paul Witte, co-founder



The Hepatitis B Foundation has announced with great sadness the passing of Mr. Paul Witte, 94, on Feb. 13.

An award-winning industrial and product-design engineer, Paul never hesitated to share his talents and resources to help create the Foundation as an important advisor and generous philanthropist.

In 1991, Paul and his wife Janine worked with Tim and Joan Block to start the Hepatitis B Foundation to help a young family devastated by the disease. What began as a grassroots effort in their kitchen has today, 30 years later, become the nation's leading nonprofit research and disease advocacy organization solely dedicated to finding a cure for hepatitis B, headquartered in Bucks County, Pa. Please read more [here](#).

Heng's story: #justB loving

More than 30 years ago, when they both were in college, Heng met Wendy and fell in love with her right away. When Wendy told him she has hepatitis B, he got tested and found out he was already protected from the virus. They later married and had children.

Today, Heng continues to love Wendy unconditionally and support her in living a healthy life. No one knows what life has in store for them, but Wendy and Heng are living life to the fullest, making the most of every opportunity. Their lives are defined by their love and not hepatitis B. Please read more of their story [here](#).



We're now 30 years old, and celebrating!



The Hepatitis B Foundation was founded in January of 1991, and we've planned a yearlong celebration of our 30th Anniversary with a focus on the people who have contributed to the many successes we have achieved over those three decades.

We'll spread the word about this major milestone and, more importantly, the Foundation's many accomplishments through videos, social media content, our newsletters and our [30th Anniversary website](#) (see the Timeline). Please keep an eye out in the months ahead and help us celebrate 30 years together in service to the hepatitis B community.

We want to hear from you: hepatitis delta surveys now available

Are you living with hepatitis delta? Would you like to be added to our email list and get important updates, such as news about clinical trials? If so, please fill out our [survey](#).

We promise not to overload you with messages, just occasional news and relevant information about what is happening in the world of HDV.

If you are a health care provider who manages HDV patients (or is interested in learning more about this) and would like to receive provider-specific communications from us, please let us know [here](#). We hope to hear from you!



COVID-19 vaccines and people living with cirrhosis



Researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine asked us to help recruit people living with cirrhosis and have received a COVID-19 vaccination for a study now

underway. They are examining the COVID-19 vaccines' safety and COVID-19 antibody levels in patients who receive a vaccine with the following chronic conditions: HIV, an autoimmune condition, cirrhosis or on home dialysis. Learn more [here](#).

CHIPO is recruiting new members

The Coalition against Hepatitis for People of African Origin (CHIPO) is a nationwide community coalition co-founded and led by the Hepatitis B Foundation. We include

organizations and individuals interested in addressing the high rates of hepatitis B infection among African communities in the U.S. CHIPO serves as a forum for sharing information and best practices, and improving national capacity to improve HBV, testing, vaccination and treatment among highly affected African communities. We always welcome new members! Please join our next coalition webinar on March 15 and [email](#) the CHIPO coordinator for meeting information. Hope to see you there!



All of Us research program



February is the month to celebrate love and the Lunar New Year.

This month, start off a new year by showing love for your community, both present and future!

Learn about the "All of Us" Research Program and how you can be a part of increasing data, adding to scientific understanding, and improving health.

Details are [here](#).

Share your hepatitis B and D experiences

If you live in the U.S., Germany, Italy or Japan, are ages 18-75, and have been diagnosed with hepatitis B or D in the last eight years, Cello Health wants to hear about your experiences in a confidential 75-minute phone interview. Participants will receive \$150 to \$250 for their time. For more info in the U.S., call Marsha at 570-216-4222; in Japan, call Fujiko Suda at 090-6519-7083; in Germany or Italy, email byordanova@m3bglobal.com.

Support for people living with liver cancer

No one should face a liver cancer diagnosis alone. Building a strong support system can be helpful for people living with liver cancer. The Hepatitis B Foundation has partnered with [Imerman Angels](#) to match mentors, also known as Mentor Angels, with those living with liver cancer for one-on-one support.



If you are a liver cancer fighter, survivor or caregiver interested in providing support to others with liver cancer, please consider becoming a mentor. Mentors complete training through Imerman Angels and will be matched with those seeking support. Register now to become a mentor [here](#). Learn more about mentorship [here](#).

Please consider joining our Champions Club



BECOME A CHAMPION!
Why a monthly gift is a great choice:

-  EASIEST AND MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE
-  YOU CAN CANCEL AT ANYTIME
-  LESS STRESS IN DECEMBER
-  ENSURES THAT RESOURCES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP HEPATITIS B PATIENTS

Become a Hepatitis B Champion today! Our goal for January is to get 30 new monthly donors to trigger a \$2,500 match from generous donors Anthony and Jane Ford-Hutchinson. Help us make our goal with your support, which also will help ensure that resources are always available to help hepatitis B patients [here](#).

Hepatitis B Foundation's Journal Pick of the Month

National Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program: 2009-2017

Koneru A, Fenton N, Schillie S, Williams C, Weng M, Nelson N
Pediatrics, March 2021

The study's purpose is to assess the trend of children born to hepatitis B surface antigen-positive women 2009-2017. The children included were all managed by the CDC's Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP). In its analysis, The PHBPP identified about 104,000 infants who were born to HBsAg-positive women 2009-2017. By identifying these infants in a timely manner, they were able to be given hepatitis B postexposure prophylaxis, a vaccine series completion and postvaccination serologic testing. It was concluded that the PHBPP had success in identifying and managing these children, but new strategies are needed to close the gap between the number of estimated infants and those that are identified. You can read more [here](#).

Free research seminar series continues online

The Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, which is our research arm, has a strong lineup of prominent scientists in hepatitis B and liver diseases for its online Distinguished Speaker Seminars. The series is free-of-charge and open to anyone interested (pre-registration is required).

Upcoming seminars are listed below in "Events" and on the Institute's website [here](#), where you also can watch recording of prior Blumberg 2020 Research Seminars.



Feb. 18,1 p.m. EST

Clinical Trials: the patient and provider experience

March 15, 3 p.m. EST

Tanzania Project: Hepatitis B Foundation and CHIPO

April 30, 11 a.m. EST

Wenhui Li, Ph.D., Investigator

National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing

[Register here](#)

2021 Blumberg Prize Recipient

Sept. 13-17

**International HBV Meeting on the
Molecular Biology of Hepatitis B Viruses - Toronto**

[Website](#)

Learn more about our research and education programs at

www.hepb.org

- **Baruch S. Blumberg Institute**
- **Hep B United**
- **Hep B United Philadelphia**
- **Hepatitis Delta Connect**
- **Liver Cancer Connect**



The Hepatitis B Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide. Our commitment includes funding focused research, promoting disease awareness, supporting immunization and treatment initiatives, and serving as the primary source of information for patients and their families, the medical and scientific community, and the general public.

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Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"